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Message Text

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44
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 IO-03 DPW-01 PRS-01

AID-10 USIA-04 EUR-10 RSR-01 /084 W
---------- 009206
R 041312Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5557
INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14086

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:
SUBJECT: TPJMC MEETING AUGUST 2.

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 4, COLONEL NGUYEN-VAN-KIM OF GVN/TPJMC DELEGATION APPEARED PLEASED WITH PROGRESS OF DISCUSSIONS DURING THE PAST WEEK ON DEPLOYMENT OF TPJMC TEAMS TO REGION AND SUB-REGION - THE ISSUE ON WHICH THE GVN HAS CHOSEN TO CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS FOR THE PRESENT (SAIGON 19884, AUGUST 1). KIM SEEMED CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC AND AGREED THAT THE TWO PARTIES WERE AT LAST TALKING WITH RATHER THAN AT ONE ANOTHER - AT LEAST ON THIS ISSUE.

2. SUB-REGIONAL SITES FOR PICKUP OF PRG PERSONNEL IN TPJMC REGIONS IV AND VII HAVE BEEN AGREED ON. PICKUP AT A SITE IN THE U MINH FOREST WAS TO HAVE OCCURRED ON AUGUST 3, BUT THE PRG
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HAD BEEN UNABLE TO GET WORD THROUGH TO ITS PERSONNEL. COLONEL

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KIM EXPECTS PICKUPS AT THIS SITE AND AT A SITE IN REGION IV - NEAR NUI ONG JUST NORTHWEST OF PHAN THIET IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE - TO TAKE PLACE EARLY NEXT WEEK. ALTHOUGH THE PRG HAS NOT YET PROPOSED A SITE IN REGION III, KIM ANTICIPATES NO PROBLEMS IN SELECTING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SITE IN THIS REGIONA. NOR DOES HE EXPECT ANY PROBLEM IN REGION V, WHERE HE THINKS THAT LOC NINH COULD EASILY BE AGREED UPON ONCE THE IMPASSE OVER A PICKUP SITE IN REGION VI HAS BEEN RESOLVED. PRG IS STILL INSISTING ON A SITE SOME SEVEN KMS FROM HIGHWAY 4 NEAR CAI LAY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE, TO WHICH IV CORPS CG GENERAL NGHI REMAINS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED. GENERAL NGHI HAD PROVIOUSLY PROPOSED A SITE UNDER WATER IN THE PLAIN OF REEDS: THIS WEEK THE GVN OFFERED ANOTHER SITE IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.

3. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT STEP, COLONEL KIM COMMENTED ON THE PRG PROPOSAL FOR THE LOCATION OF SITES FOR THE TPJMC REGIONAL TEAMS. HE INDICATED THAT MY THO AND CAN THO IN REGIONS VI AND VII ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GVN AND FORESAW NO REAL PROBLEMS IN FINDING LOCATIONS JUST INSIDE PRG OCCUPIED TERRITORY IN REGIONS I AND II. HE FELT THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR FINDING A SIMILAR SITE SOMEWHERE NEAR PLEIKU IN REGION III ALSO REASONABLY GOOD. HE VIEWED REGIONS IV AND V AS REALLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE UNSETTLED MILITARY SITUATION AND GVN WARINESS OF PRG EFFORTS TO APPEAR TO CONTROL A SOLID BELT OF TERRITORY ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM NORTHERN TAY NINH TO THE SEA.

4. WITH THE FORWARD MOVEMENT ON DEPLOYMENT, THE GVN HAS FINALLY MADE ITS FIRST OFFERS OF SPECIFIC SITES FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE TPJMC HEADQUARTERS. COLONEL KIM ADMITTED THAT THE GVN'S FIRST OFFER OF TWO SITES UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PRG (ONE IN THU DUC IN NORTHEASTERN GIA DINH, THE OTHER UNSPECIFIED) WAS INTENTIONAL. PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GVN AND PRG HAD AGREED ON THE OLD ICC COMPOUND PROVED TO BE PREMATURE. ACCORDING TO KIM, THE GVN/TPJMC DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT THE ICC COMPOUND WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRG DELEGATION, BUT IS NOT YET ABLE TO OFFER IT BECAUSE OF OPPSOSITION BY AN IMPORTANT GVN OFFICIAL.

5. THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PRISONERS HAS MADE NO PROGRESS TOWARD THE RESUMPTION OF PRISONER RELEASES. THE GVN REMAINS WILLING TO RECEIVE ITS OWN PEOPLE BACK AT THE SEVERAL SITES AGREED
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UPON ON JULY 20, BUT IS UNWILLING TO RESUME RETURN OF ITS COMMUNIST CIVILIAN DETAINEES AT LOC NINH. INSTEAD THE GVN AGAIN PROPOSES THAT ALL CIVILIAN DETAINEES BE RETURNED TO THE PRG AT THE THACH HAN RIVER, BUT THE ISSUE IS STALEMATED AS BEFORE OVER GVN INSISTENCE THAT THE RELEASES TAKE PLACE ON THE SOUTH SIDE AND THE PRG'S DEMAND THAT THEY TAKE PLACE NORTH OF THE RIVER.
MARTIN

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